THE LINE OF
DC
SUPER-STARS
BATMAN
25c
NO. 265
JULY
30430
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YES, BATMAN-- I'M A MURDERER! AND HERE COMES MY WEAPON!
KILL HIM, BRUTUS!
"BATMAN'S GREATEST FAILURE!"

IN HIS LIFELONG CRUSADE AGAINST VILLAINY, *THE BATMAN* HAS MATCHED WITS WITH EASILY A THOUSAND CRIMINALS, AND ONE BY ONE HE HAS DEFEATED THEM ALL! BUT NOW A MANIAC KILLER IS LOOSE IN *GOTHAM CITY* AND EVEN THE *COWLED CRUSADER* SEEMS HELPLESS TO STOP HIM! AS THE TOLL OF GRISLY CARNAGE MOUNTS, A SHOCKED AND BEWILDERED CITY IS FORCED TO CONFRONT...

"BATMAN'S GREATEST FAILURE!"

BATMAN

I'M *SORRY*, BATMAN, BUT *ENOUGH* IS *ENOUGH*! THREE PEOPLE ARE *DEAD*...

...PEOPLE *YOU* WERE ASSIGNED TO *PROTECT*!

FOR THE GOOD OF *GOTHAM* AND THE SAFETY OF ITS *CITIZENS*, I ORDER YOU TO *WITHDRAW FROM THIS CASE*!

SCRIPT: MIKE FLEISHER
EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

PENCILS: RICH BUCKLER
INKS: BERNI WRIGHTSON

BATMAN, Vol. 36, No.265, July, 1975. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10019. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Julius Schwartz, Editor. E. Nelson Bridwell, Associate Editor. Bob Rozakis, Assistant Editor. Sol Harrison, Vice-President. Jack Adler, Production Manager. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N. Y. and additional mailing offices. Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 391-1400. Copyright © 1975 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., National Periodical Publications, Inc., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735. Rate $3 in U.S.A. ($4 elsewhere). Subscription is for consecutive issues totalling $3.00 of their cover prices.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Prometheus

WHILE GOTHAM SLEEPS, A FILM CREW IS HARD AT WORK "SHOOTING" A MOVIE STARRING ACTOR ROBERT TRENTON AS DETECTIVE HARRY ZOE...
PLEASE, BOB! YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT ACTORS DOING THEIR OWN STUNTS! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
AND YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL...

...ABOUT SOME STUPID STUNTMAN BECOMING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION IN MY PICTURES!

BRUTUS!
LIGHT!
YES, MR. TRENTON!

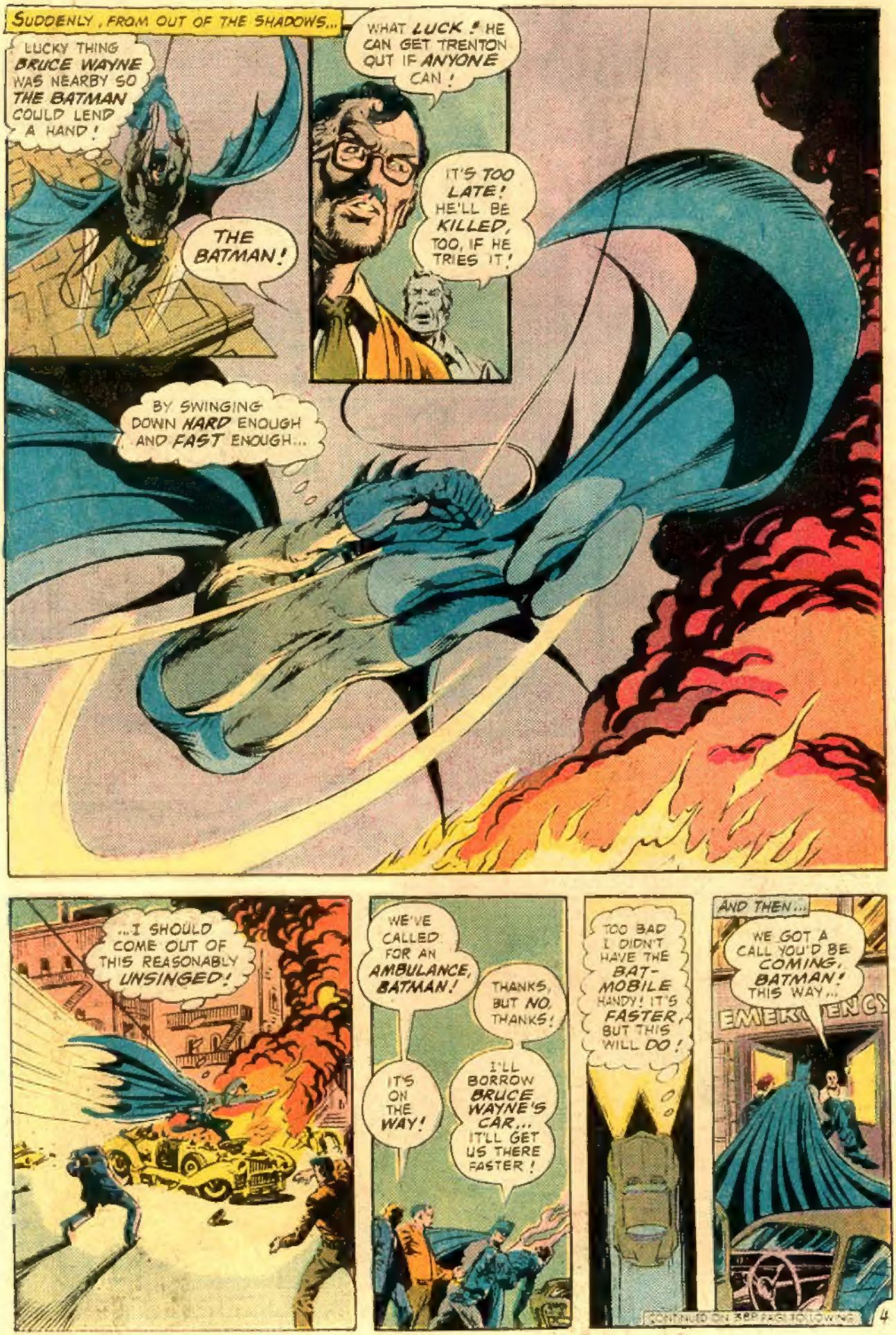
BESIDES, IT'S IN MY--
YES, YES... I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR CONTRACT!
SNAP!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! IN THIS SCENE, SYNDICATE HOODLUMS HAVE BOOBY-TRAPPED YOUR CAR!

LISTEN, BOB! THE WAY OUR BOMB GADGET WORKS, A RED LIGHT WILL GO ON WHEN YOU HIT THE IGNITION!
THAT MEANS YOU'VE GOT EXACTLY TWELVE SECONDS TO GET OUT OF THAT CAR! GOT THAT?
OF COURSE! SO LET'S GET ON WITH IT!

WELL, MISTER WAYNE... THINK YOU'RE GETTING YOUR MONEY'S WORTH?
I SURE AM, MR. LARABEE! AND I'M MIGHTY GLAD I DECIDED TO BACK THIS PICTURE!
GIVES ME AN EXCUSE TO MINGLE WITH FAMOUS SHOW-PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF...

...AND HELPS ME FULFILL A LONGTIME GOAL OF MINE ...ATTRACTING MORE FILM-MAKERS TO GOTHAM!
GLAD TO HEAR IT!
EXCUSE ME NOW! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK!

QUIET ON THE SET!
FROM THE MOMENT WHEN DETECTIVE ZOE WALKS OUT OF THE DEAD GIRL'S APARTMENT--
--ROLL IT!
THERE! THE LIGHT'S ON!
CLICK!
AN INFANT COULD DO THIS STUNT!
I'VE GOT TWELVE FULL SECONDS--
--BEFORE--
BA-R-OOM
GOOD GOD! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!
BRUTUS, TRENTON'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, REACTS INSTANTLY...
STOP, YOU FOOL!
HE'S GONE CRAZY!
HOLD HIM BACK! THERE'S NOTHING ANYBODY CAN DO!
BRUTUS, NO! NO--
--YES!
MR. TRENTON--!
3


SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF THE SHADOWS...
LUCKY THING BRUCE WAYNE WAS NEARBY SO THE BATMAN COULD LEND A HAND!
THE BATMAN!
WHAT LUCK! HE CAN GET TRENTON OUT IF ANYONE CAN!
IT'S TOO LATE! HE'LL BE KILLED, TOO, IF HE TRIES IT!
BY SWINGING DOWN HARD ENOUGH AND FAST ENOUGH...
...I SHOULD COME OUT OF THIS REASONABLY UNSINGED!
WE'VE CALLED FOR AN AMBULANCE, BATMAN!
THANKS, BUT NO, THANKS!
IT'S ON THE WAY!
I'LL BORROW BRUCE WAYNE'S CAR... IT'LL GET US THERE FASTER!
TOO BAD I DIDN'T HAVE THE BAT-MOBILE HANDY! IT'S FASTER, BUT THIS WILL DO!
AND THEN...
WE GOT A CALL YOU'D BE COMING, BATMAN! THIS WAY...
EMERGENCY

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

SEVERAL AGONIZING DAYS AFTER THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT...
HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?
I'M NOT CERTAIN, MR. LARABEE--
HIS FACE WAS SEVERELY BURNED AND HE'LL BE PARALYZED FROM THE WAIST DOWN...
PATIENTS
...FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!
MY GOD...
I'VE JUST HAD HIS BANDAGES REMOVED FOR A FRESH DRESSING...
CAN I SEE HIM?
IT'S AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT... BUT IT SEEMS THE PATIENT HAS BEEN INSISTENT ABOUT SEEING YOU!
BRUTUS HAS BEEN BY HIS SIDE CONSTANTLY SINCE HE LEFT SURGERY!
YES, I KNOW! THAT BIG LUG WORSHIPS TRENTON!
HE'D DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING FOR HIM!
H-HELLO, BOB! I'VE JUST SPOKEN WITH DR. SAMSON HERE!
HE SAYS YOU'RE GOING TO BE JUST FINE!
FINE? HUNH! IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL BEING "FINE"?
BRUTUS...
...LIFT ME UP!
YES, MR. TRENTON!
LARABEE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO THROUGH LIFE...
...LOOKING LIKE THIS?
GASP!! BELIEVE ME, BOB! WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR YOU--
LIAR!!
I KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY THINK OF ME!
YOU'RE GLAD I WAS BURNED!
5

YOU PROBABLY ARRANGED THAT SO-CALL ACCIDENT YOURSELF, TO GET RID OF ME!
BOB, PLEASE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
GET OUT OF HERE, LARABEE! GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!
MOMENTS LATER...
HE THINKS HE'S RID OF ME NOW THAT I'M NOTHING BUT A HELPLESS CRIPPLE...
...BUT WE'LL SHOW HIM... WON'T WE, BRUTUS?...
YES, MR. TRENTON...
AND SO, LATE THAT NIGHT...
YOU AWAKE, MR. TRENTON?...
...IT'S TIME FOR YOUR-- UMMMPH!!
GOOD WORK, BRUTUS!
THE NURSE IS OUT COLD! NOW GET ME AWAY FROM HERE...QUICKLY...
YES, MR. TRENTON...
DOWN...
...THE...
...CORRIDOR...
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, MR. TRENTON?
YOU AND YOUR FRIEND CAN'T GO PROWLING AROUND THE HALLS AT THIS HOUR!
BRUTUS! STOP HIM!
YES, MR. TRENTON!
CRUMMP!
UNNNNN

HURRY! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
YES, MR. TRENTON!
A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
ROBERT TRENTON... WHAAAT?!
DON'T WORRY, DOCTOR!
WE'LL GET RIGHT ON IT!
SGT. HAINER! ACTIVATE THE BAT-SIGNAL! I WANT TO SEE THE BATMAN IMMEDIATELY...
...IF...
...NOT...
WILL DO, COMMISSIONER!
...SOONER!
UH...SERGEANT? YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT THE BAT-SIGNAL!
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE NEEDING IT!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, COMMISSIONER!
YOU!
HOW IN BLAZES DID YOU GET IN HERE?
I DELIBERATELY HAD A PADLOCK PUT ON THAT WINDOW SO YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SPOOK ME LIKE THAT ANY MORE!
YOU MEAN THIS?

AND IF YOU WANTED TO TELL ME THAT ROBERT TRENTON AND HIS MAN-MOUNTAIN SERVANT BROKE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL...
...LEAVING A NOTE THREATENING THE LIFE OF HUGH LARABEE, DON'T BOTHER! I ALREADY KNOW IT!
AND...YES, I'LL PROTECT LARABEE FOR YOU UNTIL TRENTON'S APPREHENDED!
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?
I JUST FOUND OUT MYSELF... ONLY MINUTES AGO!
MAYBE I BUGGED YOUR PHONE!
MY PHONE?!
YOU WOULDN'T DARE!
I'M THE POLICE COMMISSIONER! IT'S--
--IT'S--OH, BLAST!
HE'S GONE AGAIN!
THE SHOOTING ON THE HARRY ZOE FILM RESUMES WITH A REPLACEMENT ACTOR IN THE TITLE ROLE.
HARD TO SAY, MR. LARABEE--
--BUT UNTIL WE LOCATE TRENTON AND THAT BODYGUARD OF HIS...
I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFERING TO PROTECT ME, BATMAN--
--BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M IN DANGER?
CONTINUED ON 35¢ PAGE FOLLOWING!

...I THINK I OUGHT TO STAY AS CLOSE TO YOU AS I CAN!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BATMAN!
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE!
BACK TO WORK!
IN THIS SCENE, DOUG, YOU'VE PURSUED THE SYNDICATE HIT-MAN--
--TO THIS DESERTED AMUSEMENT PARK...
--RUN ONTO THE CAROUSEL, LIKE THIS...
...NOW WATCH ME...
LOOK WARILY BACK OVER YOUR SHOULDER TO SEE IF ANYONE HAS BEEN FOLLOWING YOU--
--WEAVE YOUR WAY IN AND OUT AMONG THE POLES, LIKE THIS!
ONE POLE WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND...
...THE NEXT WITH YOUR LEFT--
ZAAA-AAAP!
GHAGGGH!
GASP! L-LOOK!

QUICK! EVERYONE BACK FROM THAT CAROUSEL!
CALL A DOCTOR!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT! HE'S DEAD!
OH, NO!
PRESENTLY...
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, COMMISSIONER!
SOMEBODY WIRED THAT POLE--
--TO ELECTROCUTE LARABEE AS SOON AS HE TOUCHED IT!
BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, BATMAN--!
--JUST WHAT THE WORLD HAS COME TO EXPECT FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE!
POLICE
COME OVER HERE, COMMISSIONER!
I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
LOOK AT THE SCRATCH MARKS ON THIS RUNG! A MOVIE CAMERA WAS MOUNTED HERE--
--TO RECORD LARABEE'S MURDER! IT SEEMS TRENTON WAS DETERMINED TO SEE HIS VICTIM DIE, EVEN THOUGH HE COULDN'T BE HERE HIMSELF!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, BATMAN--?

A MAN HAS BEEN MURDERED TONIGHT... A MAN YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT!
DON'T WORRY, COMMISSIONER! I'LL FIND TRENTON AND HIS FRIEND AND BRING THEM IN! IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE TIME...
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR REPUTATION, IT BETTER NOT TAKE TOO MUCH TIME! GOOD NIGHT, BATMAN!
HMM
...TINY CLUMPS OF GRAYISH CLAY INSIDE BRUTUS' GIGANTIC FOOTPRINTS!
WHERE HAVE I SEEN THEM BEFORE...?
LATER..
THE CLAY-CLUE HELPS A LITTLE... BUT NOT ENOUGH!
RIVER HARBOR..
I'LL JUST HAVE TO HOPE SOMETHING HAPPENS SOON TO GIVE ME MORE TO GO ON!
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM...
GARAGE
ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL, BRUTUS? SEE HOW TERRIFIED HE IS...
YES, MR. TRENTON!
...HOW HIS EYES BULGE IN TERROR AT THE SUDDEN, AWFUL REALIZATION HE IS ABOUT TO DIE!
WHAT A BRILLIANT IDEA OF MINE TO HAVE YOU FILM THE MURDER SO I COULD WATCH LARABEE DIE WITH MY OWN EYES!
YES, MR. TRENTON.
NOW SHUT IT OFF, BRUTUS! WE HAVE A LONG NIGHT AHEAD OF US...
...PLANNING MORE KILLINGS AS BRILLIANTLY CINEMATIC AS THE FIRST!

THEY ALL HATED ME...NOT JUST LARABEE! VIEWING THAT FILM HAS MADE ME REALIZE MURDER CAN BE INSPIRATIONAL... EVEN ARTISTIC!
BRUTUS, YOU WILL KILL THEM ALL FOR ME!
YES, MISTER TRENTON!
AND SO THE FOLLOWING MORNING.
YOU HAVE ANOTHER HOT FLASH FOR ME, COMMISSIONER?
A SIZZLER--THIS NOTE FROM THAT LUNATIC ACTOR!
I HAVE MURDERED LARABEE AND INTEND TO KILL THE ENTIRE CAST OF THE FILM...IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE! ROBERT TRENTON.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, BATMAN--TO STOP THAT MADMAN FROM KILLING ANYONE ELSE!
LATER THAT AFTERNOON, AS FILMING RESUMES AT A DEMOLITION SITE...
LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL JITTERY AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO MR. LARABEE, BUT WE CAN'T JUNK THE FILM!
BESIDES, THE BATMAN HAS GUARANTEED US HIS PERSONAL PROTECTION--
--UNTIL IT'S FINISHED!
IN THIS SCENE, MITZI, YOU'RE STANDING LOOKOUT WHILE YOUR GANGSTER BOYFRIEND ROBS THE PAYROLL OFFICE INSIDE!
WHEN HE COMES RACING OUT WITH THE MONEY, YOU DO YOUR DIALOGUE BIT!
ALL RIGHT, NOW--
ROLL IT!!
BLAM!
BLAM!

MITZI! WATCH OUT!!
HEY, YOU'LL RUIN THE TAKE, STUPID! THAT LINE'S NOT IN THE SCRIPT--
EEEEEEEE!
GOOD LORD! SHE... SHE'S BEEN CRUSHED!
SOMEONE DELIBERATELY RIGGED THAT STEAM SHOVEL TO--
WAIT A MINUTE! THE SUNLIGHT JUST GLINTED OFF SOMETHING UP ON THAT ROOFTOP!
SECONDS LATER...
JUST WHAT I THOUGHT! A CAMERA LENS!
AND THE CAMERA'S STILL HERE! THAT MEANS--
THE SOUND OF A FOOTFALL BEHIND HIM ALERTS THE BATMAN..
...BUT NOT QUICKLY ENOUGH...
...TO AVOID THE IMPACT ENTIRELY--JUST ENOUGH TO ENABLE HIM TO AVOID A KILLING BLOW TO THE HEAD!

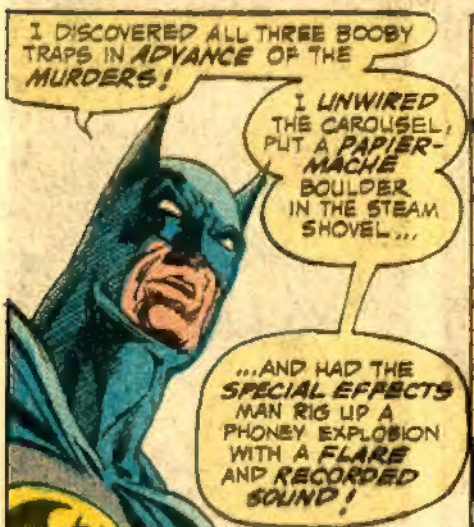
THE BATMAN STAGGERS
...CLUTCHES WEAKLY AT HIS GARGANTUAN ASSAILANT,
...AND COLLAPSES...
RRRIIIPPP!
...INTO A WELL OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS...
AND MOMENTS LATER...
OH, BROTHER! MY ACHING--
WHAT'S THIS--? A TORN PIECE OF SHIRT-POCKET WITH SOME...
...GREASE SMEARS ON IT! LIKE CAR GREASE!
I HAVE A HUNCH-- UNLESS MY BIG "FRIEND" HAS HAD CAR TROUBLE RECENTLY--
BATMAN! WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU ALLOWED TO HAPPEN?!
-- IF I PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER, ALONG WITH THAT CLAY SAMPLE,
LAB
IN ALL THE YEARS I'VE KNOWN YOU, BATMAN, YOU'VE NEVER LET ME DOWN THIS BADLY!
NOW IT'S TWO PEOPLE KILLED, RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!
PLEASE, COMMISSIONER! I M--
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVEN'T YET FOUND TRENTON'S HIDEOUT! THINGS LIKE THAT TAKE TIME!
BUT TWO DEATHS, BATMAN-- IN TWO DAYS! ONE MORE BOTCH AND I'M TAKING YOU OFF THIS CASE!
14

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, FILMING RESUMES ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME AT THE GOTHAM RAILROAD YARD...
IN THIS SEQUENCE, DOUG...
...JACQUELINE HANDS YOU THAT FANCY HAT-BOX CONTAINING THE COUNTERFEIT PLATES!
OKAY! QUIET ON THE SET!
ROLL 'EM!
SO YOU GOT THE PLATES... YOU SURE THEY'RE ALL IN THERE?
YOU'RE SUCH A HOT-SHOT, ZOE...LOOK FOR YOURSELF!
I'LL MAKE DARN CERTAIN THAT--
HUH--?!
WHOOOMM!
HOLY--! THERE WAS A BOMB HIDDEN INSIDE THE BOX!
IT WENT OFF RIGHT IN H.S FACE!
HE--HE'S NOT MOVING!
WHY DIDN'T BATMAN DO SOMETHING?
UP THERE! MOONLIGHT STRIKING A CAMERA LENS!
GOT TO CATCH UP TO BRUTUS! FOLLOW HIS TRAIL--
--BEFORE GORDON GETS THE IDEA THAT I'VE TOTALLY FLIPPED!

BATMAN! THIS IS THE LAST STRAW!
YOU'VE ALLOWED THREE PEOPLE TO BE BRUTALLY MURDERED!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THIS DAY, BUT-- I'M ORDERING YOU OFF THIS CASE! AS OF NOW!
--AND TRUST ME! I'LL BE IN TOUCH!
LISTEN, COMMISSIONER! FORGET ABOUT THE VICTIMS--
?
SHORTLY, AT AN AUTOMOBILE GRAVEYARD...
YOU DID AS I TOLD, BRUTUS?
YES, MR. TRENTON!
HUUH? TH-THE BATMAN!
HOW DID YOU FIND--?
I HAVE YOUR "YES MAN," BRUTUS, TO THANK FOR THAT! HE LEFT THE CLUES THAT BROUGHT ME HERE!
KRASH!
BUT LARABEE-- AND THE CAST OF THE FILM--
--I HAD THEM KILLED! YOU CAN'T UNDO THAT, BATMAN!
TRENTON, I'M TAKING YOU IN, WHETHER YOUR GANT BUDDY HERE LIKES IT OR NOT!
NO!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU'VE TRAINED--
--AN OPPONENT'S SIZE AND WEIGHT...
... CAN MAKE A :UNNGGH: DIFFERENCE!
THWAK!
CHUNK!
KRAAA AA SH

FOR AN INSTANT THERE IS A SPINE-CHILLING SHRIEK FROM WITHIN, AND THEN... SILENCE...

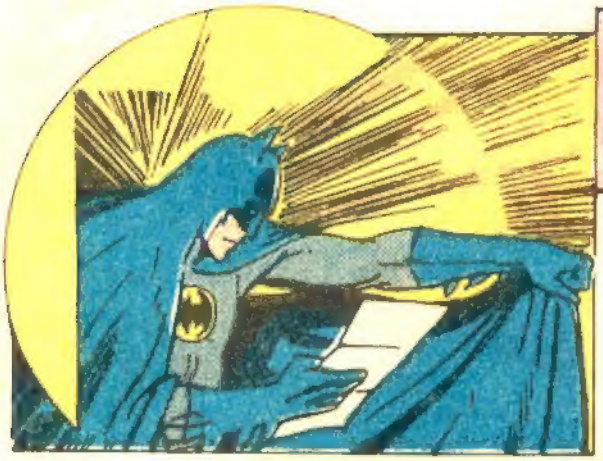

I DISCOVERED ALL THREE BOOBY TRAPS IN ADVANCE OF THE MURDERS!
I UNWIRED THE CAROUSEL, PUT A PAPIER-MACHE BOULDER IN THE STEAM SHOVEL...
...AND HAD THE SPECIAL EFFECTS MAN RIG UP A PHONEY EXPLOSION WITH A FLARE AND RECORDED SOUND!

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO SAFEGUARD EACH INDIVIDUAL AGAINST FURTHER ATTEMPTS--
--AND GIVE ME THE TIME I NEEDED TO TRACK DOWN THE WOULD-BE KILLERS!

BRUTUS, WHETHER UNWITTINGLY OR SUBCONSCIOUSLY, LEFT THE CLUES I NEEDED TO FIND THIS HIDEAWAY!
CONGRATULATIONS, BATMAN! YOUR FAILURE TURNED OUT TO BE A SUCCESS!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN MAY

END



LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019. S-2011

Dear Editor:

"The Mystery That Never Was" in **Batman #261** was a culmination of all the best things in the **Batman** legend. The **Caped Crusader** skulked around, giving credence to his "thing of the night" image without descending into melodrama. The case was, as **Batman** put it, "a variation on the locked room mystery"—the type of curious crime that he really works well with. It gave him a chance to **really** exercise his detecting skills.

The valuable plans missing from the impenetrable industrial complex was handled with flair. **Batman** solved the clues, tackled the crooks, slipped into a disguise and cracked the final problem easily like a superhero should. Even his escaping from the balloon death-trap was done with matter-of-fact excitement—without our having to witness the "beads of sweat collecting on the **Gotham Goliath's** brow as he searches desperately for an avenue of escape" type of junk.

Happily, man-servant Alfred was on hand for a few moments, hovering like a mother-hen and dubiously backing master Bruce in whatever strange scheme he has in mind. Just as happily, Dick (Robin) Grayson **wasn't** on hand, lending little more than inane comments while blundering into one trap or another.

As for **Batman's** costumed foes—as discussed in **#261's** lettercol—you are using them too much! Heavenly days—from **BATMAN #201 to 250**, you used hardly any . . . and in the past year you've tried to shove them all down our throats. How about a compromise, dividing the issues evenly among the costumed villains and regular crooks. And while you're at it, employ the lesser-used super-villains like **Scarecrow, Poison Ivy, Mr. Freeze, Riddler, Spellbinder, Cluemaster** and **Masquerader**. Use the more infamous ones, like **Catwoman, Penguin, Two-Face** and **Spook**, infrequently, perhaps once every two years.

SCOTT GIBSON, Evergreen, Colo.

(The Riddler and The Scarecrow have made their criminal comebacks to these pages and perhaps the others will get their turns, Scott. However, we are yielding to reader demand and will be varying the Bat-tales from here on, much along the lines you suggest . . . about a 50/50 split between the super-baddies and the regular rogues!—BR)

Dear Julie,

Once again, the **Masked Manhunter** has returned to what he was meant to be. Denny O'Neil has been better, but not by much! He brilliantly displayed **The Batman** as an avenger of the night wreaking vengeance on the underworld. I just loved lines like "Or do I use you for a wrecking ball?"

Irv Novick and Dick Giordano were never better. **The Batman** looked human and yet, the way he stood over the grave of Hal Hemingway gave me chills. And if somebody looked at me the way **Batman** glared at the guy on page 19, I'd die!

If we get stories like this every month, **BATMAN** will hit the top of the sales charts!

DAN JURGENS, Ortonville, Minn.

(We know The Batman still has what it takes when it comes to striking terror into the hearts of criminals . . . but now he's even scaring the readers!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear Friends,

Denny O'Neil did an absolutely beautiful job in **#261**. Though he did not leave any mystery for the reader to solve after clearing Hal Hemingway halfway through the tale rather than at the end. This story of sheer vengeance is the type of **Batman** adventure I like the best.

As for the villains topic mentioned in the lettercol, I think **Catwoman** could be **Batman's** greatest foe if you give her back the costume from the 1940's. She could be both interesting and bizarre. **The Penguin**, on the other hand, is a simple neurotic and does not fit into today's style of story. **The Joker** and **Two-Face** can have a great future if played to the hilt. Their recent appearances have been quite good. I like **The Spook** and think **Ra's al Ghul** is great, so need I say more?

JERRY STEPHEN, Bonne Terre, Mo.

(You need not say more, Jerry, but we will since you're a fan of Batman's Rogues' Gallery. First, the Catwoman dons her "Golden Age" outfit in "The Curious Case of Catwoman's Coincidences", coming right up in this magazine! And the next BATMAN COLLECTORS' EDITION features stories of The Joker, Catwoman, The Penguin, Two-Face and the origin of The Scarecrow and will be on sale in early May!—BR)

. . . . .

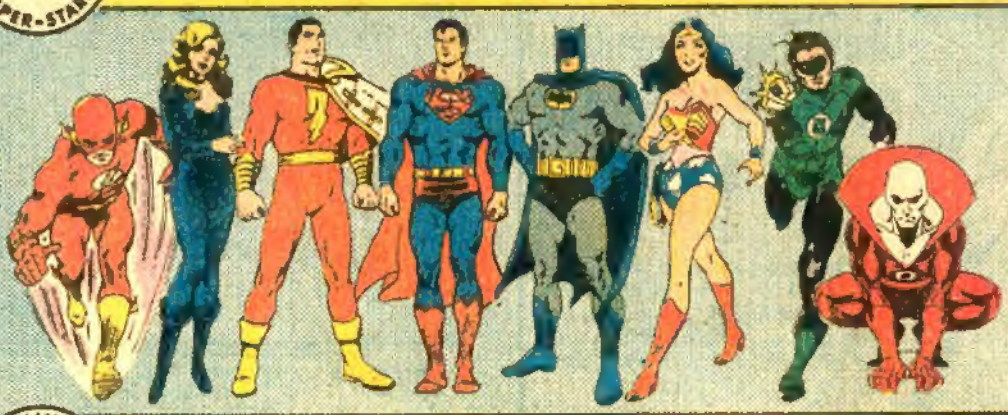
Dear Editor:

"The Mystery That Never Was" almost put me to sleep. It was plain out-and-out boring!

P.F.C. STEVEN L. THOMPSON, USMC

(This nappy chap's rap cannot dissuade us from a happy, snappy wrap-up so . . B-b-b-bat's all, folks!—BOB ROZAKIS)

FIRST THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS GAVE YOU THE WORLDS GREATEST SUPER-HEROES



THEN THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS INTRODUCED TOP QUALITY MYSTERY TALES

NOW THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS PRESENTS FANTASY AT ITS BEST IN OUR ALL-NEW ADVENTURE LINE

NOW ON SALE IN THEIR OWN ACTION-PACKED MAGAZINES!

PROMETHEVS